The Government of Madhya Pradesh has notified 40 Gram Nyayalayas which started functioning from October 2, 2009. The Government of Maharashtra has inaugurated 9 Gram Nyayalayas on 2nd October 2009 out of which 5 Gram Nyayalayas have started functioning. The Government of Orissa has notified one Gram Nyayalaya which has been inaugurated on October 2, 2009. The Government of Rajasthan is opening 45 Gram Nyayalayas. The Government of Assam has decided, in principle, to establish Gram Nyayalayas in each district excluding 2 Hill districts within one year in the first phase.

The functioning of these Courts is prescribed in the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008. These Courts will operate under the directions of the respective High Courts.

Cases awaiting verdict

3471. SHRI RAM CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any specific period for the trial of cases in courts and pronouncement of judgement;

(b) whether it is a fact that after completion of hearing, witness examination of both the sides, pronouncement of judgment could be pending for years together; and

(c) if so, the number of cases in different High Courts in which judgement has not been pronounced even after one year of completion of hearing?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) As per Section 309 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, in every inquiry or trial, the proceedings shall be held as expeditiously as possible and in particular, when the examination of witnesses has once begun, the same shall be continued from day to day until all the witnesses in attendance have been examined, unless the Court finds the adjournment of the same beyond the following day to be necessary for reasons to be recorded.

As per section 353 of the Code, the judgement in every trial in any Criminal Court of original jurisdiction shall be pronounced in open Court by the Presiding Officer immediately after the termination of the trial or at some subsequent time of which notice shall be given to the parties or their pleaders...

(b) and (c) In majority of cases, judgments are delivered by the judges as soon as the hearing is completed. Information on the number of cases in different High Courts in which judgement has not been pronounced even after one year of completion of hearing is not maintained.

However, as per the information received, no case is pending for more than one year for pronouncement of judgment in the High Courts of Kerala, Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh. 3 cases in 2007 and 27 cases in 2008 were awaiting verdict for more than one year in the High Court of Calcutta.